

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6 1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200 DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

December 21, 2011

Dana Bahr Manager Superfund Oversight Section New Mexico Environment Department P.O. Box 5469 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6011

Re: Sections 17, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 30, 30W, 32, 33, 35, and 36, United Western and Red Bluff #1 uranium Mines

Dear Mr. Dana:

Enclosed are fourteen (14) Superfund Site Strategy Recommendations (SSSRs) drafted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 for uranium mines in the Grants Mining District in New Mexico for which EPA is deferring action of these mines to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). The SSSRs summarize information and data compiled for each of the mine sites.

For Sections 17, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 30, 30W, 32, 33, 35, and 36, and United Western uranium mines, EPA understands that NMED will pursue Rio Algom Mining, LLC under New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission regulations for further investigation and cleanup. For the Red Bluff #1 mine, it is our understanding that this mine is located on property belonging to the State Land Office, therefore, is more appropriately addressed by the State of New Mexico. The EPA requests progress updates on any actions taken at these mine sites.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on the very important issue of legacy uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Lisa Marie Price

Grants Mining District Coordinator

EPA Region 6

Enclosure

cc:

Jerry Schoeppner, NMED John Pfeil, NMEMNRD

